

## Items of Interest.

—On the 11th, inst., one representative and two senators were unseated in the Kentucky Legislature, resulting in a very stormy and disgraceful row.

—Police Justice Glennon, at the recent meeting of the Chicago Citizens' League, stated that nine-tenths of the crime of that city is caused by liquor.

—The British Commons passed a bill opening the national museum and art galleries on Sunday. It is probable that the House of Lords will throw it out.

—According to statistics compiled by Messrs. Wells, Fargo & Co., the production of gold west of the Missouri River last year was \$48,300,000, the largest sum on record.

—It is said that a committee of the Massachusetts Legislature has unanimously recommended appropriating \$50,000 to put a statue of Ben Butler in the State House grounds. One of the members in a speech favored Butler's actions in New Orleans.

—Every day brings some new report of the marvels of what may be called inward photography. Prof. Wm. Hammel, of the Maryland State Normal School, claims that he has secured perfect photographs of hidden objects with the ordinary horse shoe magnet. He thinks these photographs are not made by the cathode rays, but by a new force of a magnetic nature.

—If the people of the United States could hang their heads any lower than they are already doing over the performances of Congress and Legislatures, they would do it at the thought of such things as happened recently in Indianapolis. There was an intercollegiate oratorical contest between six of the colleges, and the students got up such a riot the police were called in. Gen. Harrison left when the fracas began and refused to return.—*Ex.*

—What seems to be a plausible explanation of Germany's hostility to England has been given. For years the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria and Italy has stood on one side in Europe, and Russia and France on the other, England has refused to join either with the selfish desire of avoiding responsibility and gaining from the efforts of both to secure her. Germany has tried long and patiently to get England to join the tripple Alliance, and has at last given up the effort as hopeless. Since then Germany has made every effort to win the friendship of Russia.

—A certain missionary working at Bristol, England, among sailors, says that out of thirty ships which during one year left Bristol for trade on the coast of Africa, the cargoes of twenty-five, for the purpose of commercial exchange, were confined to gunpowder and rum.

—The tide of immigration is rising again, and the war which Italy is carrying on so disastrously in Africa will cause a large exodus of Italians. Congress is talking about the affairs of all the earth, but will do nothing to protect this country from the infidel and the Catholic hordes of Europe. It is a matter of great importance whether Venezuela has a few more or less miles in an uninhabited swamp, but of no consequence at all that the United States cities are made dumping grounds for Europe.

—All reports from China go to confirm the belief that Russia has its grip fastened firmly on Corea and all upper China, and it is a mere question of time when all China will be Russian. Then all the missionaries will be forced to leave, for Russia will not allow missionaries. It is reported that the Sultan has promised Russia to order all missionaries out of his dominions in the Spring. But this report is not believed. Russia is not yet ready to show her hand so plainly there.

### SPIRITUAL DEATH.

The captain of a Greenland whaler was surrounded with icebergs, and lay-to until the morning. When morning came he looked about and saw a ship near by. He hailed it. No answer. Getting into a boat with some of his crew he pushed for the mysterious craft. Getting nearer, he saw through the porthole a man at a stand, as though keeping a log book. He hailed him. No answer. He went on board the vessel and found the man sitting at the log-book frozen to death. The log-book was dated 1762, showing the vessel had been wandering for thirteen years among the ice. The sailors were frozen among the hammocks, and others in the cabin; for thirteen years this ship had been carrying its burden of corpses. Alas! how many communities, families, churches are like this ship! Well-preserved death is the most that can be said of them. And so they continue year after year; and when a call of life comes to them, they know it not. God keep us from this frozen state—from ice around—from death within.—*The Quiver.*

God gives us credit, not only for the good we do, but for what we would do if we had the power. The same is true, also, of the harm we do.

### CHRIST'S CROSS MY CROSS.

No instrument of torture has ever brought such peace and comfort as the cross of Christ. No other means of death has ever contributed so much to life. No other mark of shame and sin has contributed so largely to the glory and the sinlessness of the blood-bought world. The cross of Christ only becomes such a factor because it has a place and wields an influence in every life that draws near to the world's Savior. Christ's cross is my cross in a double sense. In one view, it is mine because my sins and their penalty were borne there. He bore our griefs in His body on the tree. It was for our sakes that he could not save himself from the cross. The crucified Christ becomes the Savior of the world. From his cross went forth forgiveness to the criminal. From his cross arose the divine prayer for the forgiveness of his murderers. Upon his cross the sinless heart of the Master broke under the awful pressure of the world's weight of sin. From his cross flowed forth the fount of cleansing, for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. It is my cross because it convinces me of the infinite love that sought me, and of the divine sacrifice that brought me back to God. Whatever it brought to Christ, it brings to me pardon and peace; it brings love and light and life. The cross of Christ and what it meant to him cannot be eliminated from his life without blotting out hope and happiness from my life. In view of all this, each of us ought to share the determination of the apostle: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Jesus Christ"—save in Christ and him crucified.

From the other point of view, Christ's cross is mine because it is the mark of my true discipleship. The cross or yoke of the Christian distinguishes him from other cross-bearers. It is easier and lighter than theirs. And the test which Christ applies to those who are rightfully called by his name is that they shall deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow him. Cross bearing indicates submission to the will of another, suffering for the sake of another, fidelity to a principle when that principle is vital to the highest good—to everlasting life. Can the true Christian fail in any of these things? Can he be in living touch with his Master and not share hardship and self-denial with him? We may find a way of service which does not include these things, but Christ did not find it for himself. Nor did he find it for us. As a solemn and earnest protest against our ease and indifference, comes the challenge of Christ: "Let him take up his cross!"—*Methodist Herald.*